



## Boston City Council

NEW CITY HALL  
ONE CITY HALL SQUARE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201

RAYMOND L. FLYNN



COUNCILLOR FLYNN

March 20, 1979

ORDER REQUESTING THE BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BOSTON GARDEN CORPORATION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BOSTON GARDEN

- WHEREAS: Professional sports is an important part of Boston's economic and cultural life; and
- WHEREAS: Last year, more than two million people attended various athletic and entertainment events at the Boston Garden; and
- WHEREAS: In addition to providing a home for the Boston Celtics and Bruins, last year the Boston Garden provided the city of Boston with almost one million dollars in tax revenues; and
- WHEREAS: The age, limited seating capacity and deteriorating physical structure of the Boston Garden are hampering the continued growth of professional sports in the city of Boston and the resultant vitality to the Boston economy which professional sports brings to the city; and
- WHEREAS: While professional sports does provide an important economic and public service to the city, serious reservations exist regarding the wisdom of large public subsidies for professional athletic teams and giant sports complexes; and
- WHEREAS: Because of these reservations, the legislature's Joint Committee on State Administration has voted overwhelmingly to reject legislation filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority calling for creation of a public authority to construct a \$35 million, 18,000 seat arena in the South Boston section of the city; and
- WHEREAS: Instead of spending large sums of public funds for an expensive new arena in the city, the proposed refurbishing of the existing Boston Garden by the Boston Garden Corporation would appear to offer the best alternative for enhancing professional sports in the city; and
- WHEREAS: The proposed refurbishing of the Boston Garden is not opposed by the neighboring North End community, but rather, would contribute to the redevelopment of the North Station area, which has been on the decline for the past several years; and
- WHEREAS: Businessmen in the North Station area strongly support the refurbishing of the Garden because of the revitalization it would spur; and





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WHEREAS:

In order to make the private refurbishing of the Boston Garden economically feasible, it may be necessary for the city to enter into a 121A tax agreement with the Boston Garden Corporation for a limited amount of time; therefore, be it

ORDERED:

That the City Clerk forward to the Executive Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority the following request:

That the Boston City Council respectfully requests the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board at their next meeting (March 22, 1979) to initiate immediate negotiations with the Boston Garden Corporation regarding a 121A tax agreement to assist in the redevelopment of the Boston Garden, provided however, that after completion of the enhancement of the Boston Garden property that the city will receive no less in tax revenues than what the Boston Garden Corporation is presently paying to the city.

